

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
56TH FIGHTER WING (AETC)**

LUKE AFB INSTRUCTION 91-201

26 APRIL 2012



Safety

***CONDUCTING EXPLOSIVES OPERATIONS
DURING THREAT OF THUNDERSTORMS***

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFD 91-2, *Safety Programs*. It establishes precautionary measures and actions to be taken upon issuance of a "Thunderstorm Watch", advising the potential for lightning within 5NM (5.75 miles) of Luke AFB is likely to occur within 30 minutes, and upon issuance of a "Thunderstorm Warning" indicating lightning has been observed within 5NM of Luke AFB. This publication is applicable to all personnel conducting explosive operations in support of combat aircraft on Luke AFB. This publication does apply to Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and to Air National Guard (ANG) Units. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional's chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afirms/afirms/afirms/rims.cfm>.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This publication has been substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. The previous "References" and "General Guidance" sections have been removed. Section 1 now contains a "Definitions of Weather Terms" used by the instruction. Commander "Responsibilities" have been move section 2 and expanded to include the 56th and 756th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commanders. The "Procedures" listed under section 3 have been separated into two sections to better detail the specific actions units must take when the installation is under a "Thunderstorm Watch" and a "Thunderstorm Warning".

1. Definition of Weather Terms:

1.1. Thunderstorm Advisory. An Observed Weather Advisory issued when a particular weather event first occurs and the customer does not require advance notification of the observed weather phenomenon. A Thunderstorm Advisory is issued when thunderstorms are observed within 25NM of the installation, but are expected to remain outside 5NM of the installation.

1.2. Thunderstorm Watch. A special notice issued when the potential for lightning within 5NM of Luke AFB is likely to occur within 30 minutes. Used to notify operational commanders of a potential for environmental conditions to such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property and are used to make force protection and ORM decisions.

1.3. Thunderstorm Warning (Lightning within 5NM). An Observed Weather Warning issued when lightning is observed within 5NM of Luke AFB. Used as a special notice to notify operational commanders when an established weather condition of such intensity as to pose a hazard to life or property is occurring. Throughout this instruction "Lightning within 5NM" is referred to as a "Thunderstorm Warning."

1.4. The 56th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight provides weather support to the 56th Fighter Wing. Refer to LUKEAFBI 15-101, Weather Support, for detailed 56 FW guidance regarding weather phenomena.

2. Responsibilities:

2.1. Commander, 56th Operations Support Squadron will:

2.1.1. Ensure the Weather Flight issues and cancels thunderstorm warnings, watches, and advisories through the Joint Environmental Toolkit (JET). In the event the JET system is not operational the Weather Flight will make notifications via phone.

2.2. Commander, 56th Maintenance Operations Squadron will:

2.2.1. Ensure the Maintenance Operations Center (MOC) relays all thunderstorm warnings, watches, and advisories to the entire maintenance complex.

2.3. Commanders, 56th and 756th Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons will:

2.3.1. Ensure respective Aircraft Maintenance Unit(s) comply with this instruction.

2.4. Commander, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron will:

2.4.1. Ensure the Munitions Flight complies with this instruction.

3. Procedures:

3.1. Upon notification of a **Thunderstorm Watch**:

3.1.1. Each Aircraft Maintenance Unit Production Supervisor or designated representatives will:

3.1.1.1. Direct implementation of the 56 FW Severe Weather Conditions Emergency Action Checklist within their respective unit.

3.1.1.2. Direct the Weapons Expediter to begin the safe and orderly termination of all flight line explosive operations unlikely to be completed within 30 minutes of initial watch notification.

- 3.1.1.3. Ensure the Weapons Expediter directs weapons personnel to assist the munitions line delivery driver(s) in securing and clearing the flight line of munitions not expected to be loaded on aircraft within 30 minutes of initial watch notification.
- 3.1.1.4. Ensure the Weapons Expediter informs the MOC when flight line explosive operations have ceased and munitions not loaded on aircraft have been removed.
- 3.1.2. The 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Senior Munitions Controller on duty will:
 - 3.1.2.1. Direct implementation of Munitions Control Emergency Action Checklist 5: Severe Weather Conditions.
 - 3.1.2.2. Direct all outside explosive operations to begin a safe and orderly termination of operations unlikely to be completed within 30 minutes of initial watch notification.
 - 3.1.2.3. Determine if munitions movements in transit to the flight line are to return to the MSA.
 - 3.1.2.4. In coordination with the Weapons Loading Expediter(s) direct Line Delivery drivers to remove munitions not loaded on aircraft from the flight line, and secure as directed.
 - 3.1.2.5. Munitions trailers loaded with inert assets only, (no explosive components) do not need to be removed from the flight line, i.e., BDU-50/56 trailers.
 - 3.1.2.6. Notify the MOC when all Severe Weather Conditions Emergency Action Checklist actions have been completed and the flight line is clear of all explosive laden munitions trailers.
- 3.2. Upon notification of a **Thunderstorm Warning**:
 - 3.2.1. Aircraft launch and recovery operations are normally terminated when a “Thunderstorm Warning” is issued. The Supervisor of Flying (SOF) will determine if running aircraft are to return to their parking locations, hold position, shut-down, or proceed to launch.
 - 3.2.2. The Aircraft Maintenance Production Supervisor or designated representatives will:
 - 3.2.2.1. Ensure all explosive operations have ceased and direct non-essential personnel to seek immediate shelter inside a facility.
 - 3.2.2.2. Ensure personnel remaining outside in direct support of aircraft launch and recovery operations are protected by sheltering inside vehicles to the maximum extent possible.
 - 3.2.3. The 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Senior Munitions Controller on duty will:
 - 3.2.3.1. Direct munitions movements in transit at the time a “Thunderstorm Warning” is issued to proceed to a munitions holding area protected by a Lightning Protection System (LPS).

3.2.3.2. Direct personnel at explosives locations (indoor and outdoor) which do not have a functional LPS to cease operations and evacuate to Public Traffic Route distance. Include all locations within the PTR arc of the inoperative LPS location.

3.2.3.3. Direct explosive operations involving unpackaged Electro-Explosive Devices (EEDs) in facilities protected by a LPS to cease, and the maintenance bay in which these operations are taking place vacated. Evacuation of the facilities' non-maintenance administrative areas is not required.

3.2.3.4. Indoor explosive operations (not involving EEDs) in facilities equipped with a LPS may continue. Only the Munitions Flight CC/Chief may approve continued explosive operations after assessing risk and mission impact.

4. Safety Precautions:

4.1. Direction to discontinue explosive operations and seek immediate shelter does not grant authority to exceed speed limits or ignore explosive safety practices.

4.2. Supervisors must alert unit leadership anytime they perceive personnel are exposed to an un-necessary risk from severe weather. Supervisors have the authority to suspend outside work under their control due to severe weather concerns, (knock-it-off) even in the absence of an active weather statement. In such a case immediately relay severe weather concerns or observations to the 56th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight.

JERRY D. HARRIS, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFPD 91-2, *Safety Programs*, 28 September 1993

AFOSH STD 91-66, *General Industrial Operations*, 1 October 1997

AFOSH-STD 91-100, *Aircraft Flight Line Ground Operations and Activities*, 1 May 1998

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

AFMAN 91-201, *Explosive Safety Standards*, 12 January 2011

LUKEAFBI 15-101, *Weather Support*, 11 October 2011

Adopted Form(s)

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRIMS—Air Force Records Information Management System

EED—Electro-Explosive Devices

FW—Fighter Wing

LPS—Lightning Protection System

MOC—Maintenance Operations Center

MSA—Munitions Storage Area

NM—nautical miles

OSS—Operations Support Squadron

SOF—Supervisor of Flying